



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE ARREST SUSPECTS IN 1994 MURDER

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives announce the arrest of two adult males for the murder of Patricia Lopez (54 years), which occurred on October 1, 1994.

On the evening of the murder, at about 10:20 p.m., Ms. Lopez and a female companion were returning to their homes after stopping at a market near 54th Street and El Cajon Boulevard. The two were walking northbound on 55th Street when they were approached by two suspects who demanded their purses. During the initial attack, one of the suspects pointed a handgun at the female companion. Upon seeing this, Ms. Lopez began to run away from the attack only to be caught by the suspect in the 4500 block of 55th Street. After a short struggle, the suspect shot Patricia Lopez in the back and she died at the scene. The suspects were described as two young black males approximately 20-years-old. Both fled from the scene, running northbound on 55th Street. Homicide investigators worked for several months in an effort to develop leads that would direct them to the murder suspects. All leads were exhausted, and the case remained unsolved until a tip was received in November of 2006.

On November 2, 2006, an anonymous person called police communications and provided the names of the suspects' involved as well as detailed information about the robbery/murder. The homicide investigation was re-opened by the SDPD Cold Case team with support from the F.B.I.

Investigators began the process of identifying suspects, analyzing evidence, and re-contacting witnesses. The investigation had been on-going for the last year and a half, while the information provided by the anonymous caller was corroborated. The suspects were identified and eventually interviewed by detectives. In May of this year, the District Attorney's Office agreed to charge three suspects with the murder of Patricia Lopez.

SDPD
Homicide News Release
Page 2

On Sunday, August 3, 2008 32-year-old Katrel Lynch was arrested in Albuquerque, New Mexico. On Thursday, August 7, 2008 31-year-old Khary Watson was arrested in El Cajon. The final arrest of the 36-year-old female suspect is expected within the next couple of days. Katrel Lynch and Khary Watson were processed at SDPD headquarters and later booked into San Diego Central Jail for the murder of Ms. Patricia Lopez.



Patricia Lopez